ONTARIO BISEXUAL NETWORK

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Tel: (416)-649-1356 / Fax: (416)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safe sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.

Q: Does *OBN* Hold Regular Meetings?

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m., and on the third Thursday of every month from 8 to 10 p.m., at the 519 Community Center (519 Church Street, just north of Wellesley).

The meetings are for bisexual men and women to meet other bisexuals. We do welcome people who are not sure about their sexual orientation, and no one is required to attach a label to themselves. Your attendance at the meetings is kept confidential.

Q: What Happens at *OBN* Meetings?

At each meeting, a common format includes a brief but *optional* introduction by those present, offering a name we can call you by for the evening, and a few words about you or about how things are going for you.

Usually some network business is discussed at each meeting. Anyone may volunteer for work positions. A topic for discussion is introduced as a catalyst for people to get to know each other better. Occasionally guest speakers are invited on specific topics.

Everyone is invited to facilitate meetings or introduce discussion topics, if you wish. All ideas are welcome, including suggestions for changing the format or topic of any meeting.

At each meeting a collection is made of voluntary contributions to defray expenses. The nominal contribution is $2 per meeting, and this is reduced or waived for anyone experiencing financial difficulties.

Q: Does *OBN* have a Newsletter?

OBN NEWS is a one-page newsletter published monthly for the first meeting of each month and available at all meetings. For those unable to attend Toronto meetings, newsletters will be mailed to you periodically, for a subscription fee of $10 per year.

Everyone is welcome to contribute announcements, articles, personal advertisements, letters, and stories for publication in the newsletter. Submissions are due at the mid-month meeting for publication in the next issue, or may also be mailed to the address above.

The newsletter is a forum for network participants to air their ideas, and does not represent the views of the *OBN* (since the *OBN* itself holds no views). Newsletter editorials and articles represent the views of the editor or writer only.

Q: Does *OBN* Have a Philosophy to Which I Must Conform?

The *Ontario Bisexual Network* itself is just a method for letting people find each other and decide what to do together. There is no overall philosophy, culture, set of beliefs, or any other characteristic to which you must conform in order to participate.

No one speaks on your behalf, other than to share with others the kinds of logistical details you find on this page.

We do encourage people who attend our meetings to accept the diversity among us, and to allow everyone ample opportunity to speak if they wish.

Q: What About Political Action for Bisexuals?

Individuals and groups of people who find each other through *OBN* are free to develop and run bisexual action groups, e.g. for social activities, political action, education, or anything else.

Since *OBN* itself has no formal structure and holds no views, the action groups speak only on their own behalf, and not on behalf of *OBN*. For example, a small political action group entitled *EMBRACE* has been formed by people who met at *OBN* meetings. This group speaks only on behalf of the individuals involved.

Q: What Can I Read?

Bisexual activists Loraine Hutchins and Lani Kaahumanu are the authors of a new book called *Bi Any Other Name: Bisexual People Speak Out* (Alyson Books, Boston 1991), which might be a good starting point for people who are just starting to explore their bisexual nature. Look in *The Women's Bookstore* or *Glad Day Books* in Toronto.

Q: Does *OBN* Have a Bulletin Board?

The Toronto Lesbian and Gay Community Information Bulletin Board System has invited the *Ontario Bisexual Network* to publish *OBN News* online, and to look after the bisexual area within the bulletin board. Computer-users are invited to participate. Access is free. Call 649-1356 for further details.

Q: Can I Talk To Somone?

Call the number above and we will connect you with someone to talk to.

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